the Equal Remuneration Act, the Payment of Gratuity Act, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act etc. for protection of identified categories of unorganised labour including agricultural labour.

Government have also introduced a package of anti-poverty programmes such as IRDP, Jawahar Rojgar Yojna and schemes like Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment (TRYSEM), Employment Assurance Scheme is aimed at bettering the lot of rural workers including the agricultural workers, who form the bulk of the unorganised workers.

In addition, the Employment Assurance Scheme, which was introduced w.e.f. 2nd October, 1993, was launched in 1754 backward blocks and has now been extended to 2443 blocks.

Besides, Government have also launched a scheme known as Development of Women & Children in rural Areas with the objective of bringing about economic and social upliftment of rural women below the poverty line using a group approach for taking up income generating activities suited to their skills and aptitude. The Scheme operates in conjunction with TRYSEM and IRDP.

In order to specifically address the needs of agricultural workers, the Central Government have drawn up a legislative proposal which is being finalised in consultation with concerned Ministries.

Unemployed Persons in the Country

1316. SHRI RAGHAVJI :
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of unemployed matriculates, graduates, post-graduates and diploma holders in various streams as on 31.12.98 as compared to those in the preceding three years; and

(b) in what manner Government propose to tackle this gigantic problem of unemployment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Available information relating to the number of job-seekers all of whom are not necessarily unemployed who were on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges as at the end of 1993, 1994, 1995 (latest available) classified by Educational levels is furnished in the statement enclosed. (*See* below).

(b) The major poverty alleviation programmes which provide employment in the rural areas are Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme.

In the urban areas, as an outcome of the recommendations of the Hashim Committee in its, Report to Review and Rationalise Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation, the Swarna, Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) has been launched and NRY, PMIUPEP and UBSP (Urban Basic Services for the Poor) have been phased out. The scheme has become operational from 1.12.1997. SJSRY seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under employed poor through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment.

Prime Minster's Rozgar Yojana is being implemented as Central Plan Scheme to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youths in both rural and urban areas.

Statement

No. of Job-seekers on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges, classified by Educational level.

Educational level	No. in thousand at the end of 31st December		
	1993	1994	1995
1. 10th Class passed	13608.1	13566.5	13947.1
2. 10+2 passed	5619.9	5793.1	6104.4
3. Graduates (including Post-graduates)	3958.3	4215.2	4322.6
(i) Arts	1613.4	1692.1	1763.4
(ii) Science	776.3	800.0	801.8
(iii) Commerce	672.6	698.4	703.5
(iv) Engineering	152.0	158.5	168.1
(v) Medicine	31.9	30.6	31.5
(vi) Veterinary	3.5	4.0	4.3
(vii) Agriculture	33.5	33.2	36.3
(viii) Law	14.0	14.5	14.9
(ix) Education	558.5	615.1	608.0
(x) Others	102.5	168.9	190.9
4. Diploma Holder	430.6	401.8	421.0
Total : (1+2+3+4)	23616.8	23976.6	24795.0

Figures may not tally due to rounding off.

ESI Hospitals at Sas-Nagar

1317. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as reported in the Tribune of November 23, 1998, the ESI referral hospital at Sas-Nagar near Chandigarh is myth for a hospital, with most of the equipments either lying idle or conspicious by their absence;

(b) if so, how far this report represents a true picture of the affairs at this and other ESI hospitals all over the country; and

(c) what steps have since been taken to upgrade the functioning of this and other ESI hospitals to serve the suffering workers and their families?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the responsibility for administration of medical care vests in the State Governments/UT Administrations except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is being administered by the ESIC direct. There have been sporadic complaints about lack of medical and para-medical staff, shortage of drugs/dressings, lack of equipments etc. in ESI hospitals/dispensaries. Such complaints as and when received, are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for taking